VERNHAM DEAN GILLUM'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

✦ SCHOOL NEWSLETTER & COMMUNITY BULLETIN ✦

Autumn Term 2026 | Issue 1 | Date: September 2026

✉ MESSAGE FROM MRS B

A very warm welcome back to a brand-new academic year at Vernham Dean Gillum's Primary School! I hope you all had a restful, fun-filled summer break enjoying precious time with family and friends.

The start of a new school year is always filled with excitement and anticipation, and I am thrilled to share how brilliantly the children have settled into their new classes this week. From our newest EYFS pupils taking their very first steps into primary school, to our Year 6 pupils stepping seamlessly into their roles as school leaders, every child has embraced the new term with big smiles and incredible enthusiasm.

The calm, positive, and focused atmosphere across the school over these first few days is an absolute credit to you all. The children have arrived ready to learn, full of energy, and eager to support one another. It is wonderful to see our core values of Compassion, Courage, and Creativity already being lived out every day in the classroom and around the school.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our incredible teaching and support staff, who worked tirelessly over the summer break to ensure our classrooms were warm, welcoming, and ready for a fresh start.

As we embark on the term ahead, we look forward to working in close partnership with you to make this year a rich, rewarding, and joyful experience for your children. Please keep an eye on upcoming newsletters and school communications as our autumn calendar takes shape.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support, encouragement, and partnership. Here’s to a wonderful year ahead!

SCHOOL CHRISTIAN VALUES

Our core Christian values guide everything we do across our school community:

- **Courage:** Overcoming challenges and standing up for what is right.
- **Compassion:** Showing kindness, care, and empathy to everyone.
- **Creativity:** Exploring, discovering, and celebrating our God-given talents.

This Month's Theme: Truthfulness

This half-term, our spotlight is on the Christian value of Truthfulness. Our daily acts of worship are centered around truthfulness, helping children explore honesty, integrity, and building strong, trusting relationships.

“He who walks with integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will become known.”

- Proverbs 10:9

CLASSROOM UPDATES

Robins Class

What a brilliant first full week we have had in Robins class! The children have settled in amazingly well and have been busy exploring their new classroom and getting to know one another.

This week, we kicked off our phonics journey by learning our very first four sounds: s, a, t, and p. As part of our "Marvellous Me" topic, the children shared the lovely 'All About Me' cards they made at home. It was a wonderful way to learn about everyone's favourite things, and the cards are now proudly on display in our classroom for all to see.

Miss Nicoll and Mrs Parker are incredibly proud of how well everyone has done and are looking forward to another fantastic week ahead!

Kingfishers Class

The children in Kingfisher Class have settled in brilliantly, with our Year 2 pupils doing a wonderful job guiding the Year 1s through their daily routines. They have already jumped into their new topic, *Town and Country*, and are enthusiastically exploring the differences between physical and human geography.

Owls Class

Owls class have settled in brilliantly and are already busy at work!

In English, the children have been exploring instructional writing - putting their skills into practice by making kites and lemonade alongside reading about Leena's new life in the city. Our Guided Reading sessions have taken us into the world of Roald Dahl, where we've been dissecting his vivid descriptive language (and having plenty of fun decoding the BFG's jumbled words!).

In Maths, we are laying strong foundations with place value and keeping our times tables sharp with regular practice. The children have also enthusiastically started their new French lessons and kicked off a thoughtful science discussion on what "Energy" means to us.

Homework Note: Homework will be sent home today (Friday) and is due back in on Wednesday.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

In worship this afternoon, Mrs Bulpitt spoke to the children about the important role of the School Council. Application forms have been taken home by interested children in Years 1 through 6. If your child would like to apply, please ensure their completed form is returned to Mrs Bulpitt by Thursday 17th September.

WRAPAROUND CARE

Just a reminder that we offer wraparound care before and after school to help support busy family schedules!

What's Available

- **Early Birds** (7:45 am – 8:45 am | Mon–Fri): A bright start to the morning. Breakfast is available for the children together with fun activities to get ready for the day.

- **Night Owls** (3:30 pm – 5:30 pm Mon–Thu | until 4:30 pm Fri): A healthy snack paired with engaging daily activities:
  - Monday: Art and snack
  - Tuesday: Cooking and snack

- Wednesday: STEM and snack
- Thursday: Boardgames and snack
- Friday: Puzzle and snack

Booking & Pricing Information

- Cost: £7 per session (£5 for additional siblings attending the same session).
- Bookings: Managed conveniently online via SCOPAY.

If you would like to register your child, please contact the school office to receive a registration form and a copy of our Terms of Business.

REMINDERS

Lip Balms at School: A growing number of lip balms have been brought into school and onto the playground recently, leading to distractions and disagreements between pupils. If your child requires lip balm for dry or chapped lips, please hand it to their class teacher. They will gladly keep it on their desk for your child to use whenever needed.

School Uniform: Please ensure that all items of your child's uniform are clearly labeled with their name to help us return any misplaced clothing quickly.

PE Kit: Please send your child to school with their full PE kit on Monday morning. Kits will stay at school for the week and will be sent home on Friday afternoon for washing.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS





DATES FOR THE DIARY

DATE	EVENT DETAILS	TIME / LOCATION
01 September 2026	INSET Day (Staff Training)	All Day (School Closed)
24 September 2026	YR 2027 Open Morning	10:00am - 11:00am
5th October 2026	Y5 & 6 Residential	5th - 9th October 2026
16th October 2026	Red for Racism Day	All Day
20 October 2026	Work Showcase	3:10pm - 3:30pm
22 October 2026	Harvest Festival	2:30pm
22 October 2026	YR 2027 Open Morning	10:00am - 11:00am
22 October 2026	Individual Pupil Photographs	09:00am - 10:00am
22 October 2026	Harvest Festival Celebration	2:30pm
26 October 2026	Half Term	All Week
02 November 2026	INSET Day (Staff Training)	All Day (School Closed)
12 November 2026	YR 2027 Open Afternoon	1:30pm - 2:30pm
13 November 2026	Children in Need	All Day
23 November 2026	Nasal Flu Vaccine (Whole School)	TBC
17 December 2026	Christmas Tree Festival	TBC